

## Additional Information Sources

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The City of Wenatchee wastewater treatment plant has had recurring problems with toxic discharges. These discharges have contributed to permit violations, which recently led to an environmental lawsuit. To help reduce the number of toxic discharges, the city has developed a pretreatment program. A goal of the program is to educate wastewater dischargers about the requirements of properly disposing of toxic chemicals and pollutants. For questions regarding this brochure or the City of Wenatchee Ordinance 2007-23, contact either Jessica Shaw, the Environmental Manager for the City of Wenatchee or contact Brad VanderVeer, Environmental Technician, at (509) 888-3200.

Questions regarding storage, management, or disposal of hazardous chemicals can be directed to the hazardous waste section of the Washington State Department of Ecology at (509) 575-2490.

For information regarding spill prevention, preparedness & response, including oil spills, hazardous materials releases, or leaking storage tanks; 24 hour assistance is available from the spill response team at the Washington State Department of Ecology's central regional office. Phone (509) 575-2490.

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### *Managing and Disposing of Solvents*

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City of Wenatchee  
Water Resource Division  
PO Box 519  
Wenatchee, WA 98807-0519  
Phone: (509) 888-3200

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## Impacts of Solvents On Health and the Environment

Solvents are compounds with a strong capability to dissolve a given substance. Solvents are in a class of chemicals called *volatile organic compounds*. These chemicals evaporate, or vaporize, readily; and they contain carbon. Solvents are common in dry cleaning, paint thinners, paint removers, degreasers, and manufacturing. They may also be found in compounds as common as detergents, pesticides, adhesives, aerosols, and septic system cleaners.

Whether a solvent is released from a large area, such as an industrial plant, or from a container, such as a drum or bottle, it can result in contaminated water resources and ill health. Exposure can occur through skin contact, breathing the vapors, or ingestion. A variety of harmful health affects result from exposure, including skin irritation, fatigue, headaches, respiratory problems, birth defects, nervous system effects, lung and liver damage.

Proper handling and disposal of solvents is essential to reducing the harmful impacts on people and the environment. Section VIII of City of Wenatchee Ordinance 2007-23, as well as Chapter 173-303 of the Washington State Administrative Code prohibit disposal of hazardous materials to the sewer collection system. Disposal of solvents to the ground or into storm sewer drains is also prohibited.



### Some common solvents

- Acetone/Dimethyl ketone
- Benzene
- Methylene chloride/Dichloromethane
- Toluene
- Tetrachloroethene/Perchloroethylene/PERC
- Trichloroethylene/TCE
- Chloroform/Methyltrichloride
- Methyleneethylketone
- 2-hexanone/MBK/propyl acetone

### Best management practices for handling and disposing of solvents

- Control spills, leaks, and drips, by using secondary containment
- Use only licensed hazardous waste transporters to dispose of spent or unwanted solvents
- Use less-toxic products when available
- Store hazardous chemicals in approved containers
- Prepare and update spill prevention and response plans

### Solvents must be properly disposed of by a licensed hazardous waste transporter

Solvents should never be dumped down sewer drains, storm drains, or dumped on the ground. Improper disposal could result in the following:

- Fire or explosion in the sewer system or wastewater treatment facility
- Groundwater contamination
- Health problems for workers and the public
- Wastewater treatment plant upsets
- Toxicity to fish and other aquatic organisms in the river
- Contributes to *Ozone* layer depletion
- Civil penalties to you of up to \$25,000 per day per violation and criminal penalties up to \$250,000 and/or imprisonment up to 15 years.



A sewer explosion in 1981 in Louisville, KY, blamed on an illegal release of the solvent hexane, destroyed two miles of city streets. It took nearly two years to repair the sewer lines, and several more months to finish street repairs.

We hope that you will pass this brochure along to employees who may not be aware of the potential impacts of improper chemical disposal.